

CLAIMS

1. Process for inking an engraved printing plate from an ink tank and for scraping off the ink in dab printing, characterised in that a doctor blade is used, of which at least the bottom edge, which comes into contact with the printing plate, is adjusted with respect to the printing plate at a negative angle, measured with respect to the portion of the printing plate which is inked and to be scraped off, and without changing the position of the doctor blade, a relative moving of the doctor blade with respect to the printing plate is generated, on the one hand, in a direction to ink the printing plate, and on the other hand, in the other direction, to scrape off the ink from the printing plate.

2. Process according to claim 1, characterised in that for said negative angle a value is chosen between almost 90° and almost 180°.

3. Process according to any one of claims 1 and 2, characterised in that a doctor blade of flexible material is used.

4. Process according to any one of claims 1 and 2, characterised in that a doctor blade of distortionless material is used.

5. Process according to any one of claims 1 – 4, characterised in that a distortionless plate is used as a printing plate.

6. Process according to any one of claims 1 – 4, characterised in that as a printing plate, a slightly deformable plate is used.

7. Process according to any one of claims 1 – 6, characterised in that above said printing plate is moved and above said doctor blade is kept immobile.

8. Process according to any one of claims 1 – 6, characterised in that above said doctor blade is moved and above said printing plate is kept immobile.

9. Process according to any one of claims 1 – 6, characterised in that above said doctor blade and above said printing plate are moved in the opposite sense.

5 10. Device for inking a printing plate and for scraping off the ink in dab printing, characterised in that it consists of the combination of:

- a) an ink tank for the inking of a printing plate during a relative moving of the printing plate with respect to this ink tank, and of
- 10 b) at least one doctor blade, of which the bottom edge, which comes into contact with the printing plate, is adjusted at a negative angle with respect to the printing plate, whereby an angle is meant that is measured with respect to the portion of the printing plate that has been inked and must yet be scraped off.

15 11. Device according to claim 10, characterised in that above said negative angle is of the order of  $90^\circ$  -  $180^\circ$ .

12. Device according to any one of claims 10 and 11, characterised in that above said doctor blade is flat and shows a bottom edge, which is bent at above said negative angle and forms an obtuse angle with the printing plate.

20 13. Device according to claims 10 and 11, characterised in that above said doctor blade is flat and shows a bottom edge, which is bent at above said negative angle and forms a sharp angle with the printing plate.

25 14. Device according to any one of claims 10 and 11, characterised in that above said doctor blade is arched and shows a bottom edge, which extends at the above said negative angle.

30 15. Device according to any one of claims 10 and 11, characterised in that above said doctor blade in height direction, is folded at several sharp angles and shows a bottom edge, which extends at the above said negative angle

16. Device according to any one of claims 10 – 15, characterised in that above said ink tank is elongated; and with above said doctor blade forms an elongated ink gap.

5 17. Device according to claim 16, characterised in that above said doctor blade and ink tank are fixed on a common elongated package.

18. Device according to claim 16, characterised in that above said doctor blade and above said elongated package form a whole.

10 19. Device according to claim 18, characterised in that above said doctor blade and above said elongated package have been injection moulded from the same material.

15 20. Device according to any one of claims 10 – 19, characterised in that two doctor blades are mounted opposite each other.

21. Device according to any one of claims 10 – 19, characterised in that above said doctor blade forms a closed circuit, and a portion of the doctor blade extends at above said negative angle.